GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:211
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2001
TELECOM FACILITY IN RURAL AREAS
RAJO SINGH

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes approved for expansion of basic infrastructure for electronic communication facilities in rural areas of the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of proposals lying pending with the Union Government in this regard so far; and

(c) the time by which these proposals are likely to be cleared?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STA QUESTION NO. 211 FOR 12TH MARCH, 2001 REGARDING TELECOM FACILITY IN RURAL AREAS.

(a) & (b): The Government has embarked upon an ambitious plan to extend telecom facilities in the rural areas. Various schemes along with details are given as under:-

1. Provision of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in the remaining villages by March 2002 with the joint efforts of Private Fixed Service Providers.

Out of 6.07 lakhs villages in the country, 3.97 lakh villages have been provided with VPTs as on 1/3/2001. BSNL has planned to provide 1,00,000 and 77,038 VPTs in the current and next financial year respectively. The balance 55,848 villages are to be covered by Private Fixed Service Providers.WLL, C-DOT TDMA/PMP and satellite based systems will be deployed extensively for providing VPTs. 6 lakh lines of WLL equipment are being procured to provide VPTs and telephones in the rural areas. This equipment is likely to be available from March 2001 onwards. VPTs on MARR system are planned to be replaced by WLL technology and under ground cable in a phased manner by the year 2002.

2. Provision of telephone on demand.

At present, 23339 telephone exchanges with 5.88 million telephones are operational in rural areas. It is proposed to install 3331 exchanges in rural areas to provide 1.37 million telephones in the current financial year. For meeting rising demand of telephones in the rural areas, 1.6 million telephones are planned to be provided in the next year.

3. Provision of reliable transmission media to all exchanges by the year 2002.

Reliable optical fibre media is planned for all the telephone exchanges including exchanges in rural areas by 2002. Target of laying OFC is 1 lakh Route Kilometers (RKMs) for the current year 2000-2001.

4. Provision of Internet facility in rural areas.

All 326 Secondary Switching Area (SSA) Headquarters are planned to be provided with Internet Nodes by March 2001Similarly, all 6047 Block Head quarters are planned to be provided with Internet dhabas on franchise basis by March 2001.

Circle-wise details of targets under various schemes are given in the attached annexure.

(c) As telecom facilities in rural areas are non-remunerative, achievements under these schemes as indicated above will depend on availability of funds from the Government.